

1 34729/JFO/B600

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR A NETWORK HUB TO DIAGNOSE
NETWORK OPERATION AND BROADCAST INFORMATION
5 TO A REMOTE HOST OR MONITORING DEVICE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

0055065-052600
10 A network hub in a communication network that acts as a
server to network clients to push, or transmit, information
regarding the state of local and remote devices and networks.
The information can be one, or more, status information, which
information can be one or more predefined fields in a frame,
which represents a packet of data. In one embodiment, it is
desirable that the frame be a "legitimate" Ethernet-type frame.
15 The status field can be a "push"-Type status field. The push
operation can be a unicast, a multicast, or a broadcast, or a
hybrid transmission. The hub can be a switch, repeater, a
bridge, a router, a gateway, or a hybrid thereof. Also, the hub
according to the present invention can be an OSI Layer 2 device,
20 an OSI Layer 3 device, or a hybrid thereof. It is desirable that
the hub be devoid of a microprocessor. As described herein, the
hub may have plural ports, for example, four, eight, or more
ports.

25

30

JFO/11b

LLB IRV1033897.1--5/26/00 3:25 PM

35